Construction of Reservoir Beyond Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu

1080. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal to construct reservoir beyond Mettur Dam on Cauvery River in Tamil Nadu and to store flood water during season and use it whe[s]n required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): No, Sir. There is no proposal to construct reservoir beyond Mettur Dam on Cauvery River in Tamil Nadu to store flood water.

Fall in Ground Water Level

1081. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the contents of the news item captioned "Groundwater levels hit an alarming low" which appeared in Hindustan Times dated the 13th June, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that the agriculturally important States of Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan are facing a steady fall in their ground water levels and the exploitation level in these four States is as much critical as it is minimum 53 per cent in Rajasthan and maximum 98 per cent in Punjab; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking for redemption of ground water specially when the agriculture contributes nearly 29 per cent of the GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the news-item, which appeared in a section of the press under the caption "Ground Water levels hit an alarming low".

(b) Level of ground water has declined in the States of Punjab,